

03/06 1

B.A.R.G. NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group. Inc. #6953T

ABN 44 247 200 143

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 6 JUNE 2003

PRESIDENT: Gordon Cornell VK3FGC SECRETARY: John Kennedy VK3AIG TREASURER: Bob Terrill VK3BNC

NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY 27 JUNE
At 7.30 pm

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year is certainly moving on and already and it is time to start to think about nominating for committee positions. It is important that we get rotation of people on the committee, as it has been said in the past, that the club has been run by a "cliché" (or however you spell it). New members can only improve the running of the club. Please give it some consideration.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Two important items from the meeting on Wednesday night, both as a result of the IRLP

1. For a trial period BARG will re broadcast "Q-News" less the local Queensland news, on Sunday mornings starting June 29 on our repeater VK3RWA starting at 1130 hrs local time. The broadcast should last about half an hour, after which there will be a "call back" conducted by Stephen VK3 HEG. The broadcast is to be repeated on the following Monday nights at 1900 hrs. The committee will be interested in your comments, including times and days.
2. It was decided to investigate the upgrading of the equipment at RWA with respect to the transceivers and control, to enable remote operation of the repeater. The technical committee is to do some investigations. Comments at the meeting will be welcome.

Also it was agreed to purchase a new urn for the kitchen.

DATES

7.30 pm. Note the new starting time for the Autumn/Winter period

COMMITTEE please note that meetings (3rd Wednesday in the month) will also start at 7.30.

Friday Dining: The next meeting of the Friday nighters is to be held at the Hotel at Buninyong at the usual time

03/06 2

The July dinner is to be at the Newlyn Hotel on 17 July at 6.30 pm.

DATES (continued)

Ballarat HAMFEST date is the first Sunday in November (the weekend before the Melbourne Cup :as usual) **Sunday 2 November 2003.**

WELCOME

Welcome to Craig VK3CMC to our meetings. Craig has been a member of BARG for quite some time, but was living in Box Hill. He has moved to Cape Clear where he is building a new house. Craig is an active amateur and a member of WICEN. **WELCOME CRAIG.**

FAREWELL

At the May meeting, we said farewell to Eric Murdock, one of our SWL's, who is moving to Port Pirrie is South Australia. Eric has been a regular attender at Club meetings and so will be missed. Good luck is S.A.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

It was agreed (at the May Meeting) that construction nights would be held on the second Monday each month, starting at 1930 hr. at the Club rooms.

FOR SALE

1. Swan S700 CX Transceiver, in good condition. 400 watt, \$300.00 or near offer
2. Tet Emtron HF 5 El Yagi good condition \$300.00 ono
3. Icom IC701 HF all band transceiver, \$200.00 ono
4. Home Brew all valve transmitter and receiver, \$100.00 ono
5. Two meter Yaesu FT2A Autoscan transceiver, \$100.00 ono.
6. Oscilloscope single trace, \$80.00 ono
7. Frequency counter, YC500 Near new, \$100.00 ono.

You can see them working at the club rooms.

Ring Trevor VK3GM on 5331 1600 or Charlie VK3DCS on 5331 7425

WANTED

Wanted: triangular tower sections 6 foot lengths (Not more than 50 hi hi)
Contact Michael on his mobile 0408 778 626.

QUESTION: *Who missed the George Fowler Auction because he had to attend the Courier Bridal Expose'????*

03/06 3

QUESTION 2. Who has retired from his occupation and has had to give up his e-mail facility???

Bad luck happens to all at some time.

BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP

Minutes of Club Meeting 30 May 2003

Meeting opened by President Gordon VK3FGC@ 1940 Hrs

Present 18 Members

Apologies. VK3PAL, VK3ADB, VK3NBV, VK3BVI, VK3CFH, VK3VBA,

Minutes as read. VK3AIG/DCS Carried

Correspondence in. A.C.A. E.M.R. Question and Answer Sheet, Club Newsletters.

Correspondence Out. Michael Lomas. W.i.a. Vic Technical Advisory Committee

Reports

Financial. Income. M/Fees \$25.00, Drinks \$12.00, Total \$37.00

Expenses. QST \$123.45. Rent \$150.00. N/L \$18.00. N/Cable \$39.60. Tax \$2.30. D.Quirk \$20.00

Balance \$4460.11. Convention a/c \$430.70

Moved VK3BNC/UR. Carried.

Tech O.K.

Club Net. O.k.

Western Zone. O.K.

W.I.C.E.N. Public Insurance still an issue.

Dinner Club.

Burrumbeet. Late, The Owl Club.

Buninyong June 20

Newlyn. July 17

Exams. May be a possible candidate.

General Business.

A.R.D.F. Keep dates free

Gordon meet City Council they are very keen to be part of.

Local Member to open.

June/July meeting. Presentation to be given.

I.R.L.P. discussion on usage and cost, is it effective, Bob VK3BNC reported that costs could be lowered.

Auction All in hand.

e-mail address for club, to be advised.

Ian VK3AXH Gave a good address and information on the A.C.A. letter regarding E.M.R. explained table for different modes. Ian strongly suggested that all members draw a plan of antenna layout, showing heights, expected power output and the level you expect.

David VK3UR to download further info and e-mail to members.

Ian VK3AXH demonstrated his 2mx antenna and members decided that this will be the next construction project. Next Cons night Mon June 16, Then every second Monday

David VK3UR showed an interesting video on the A.R.D.F. Townsville 1996, Gave members a very good insight on the procedure and format

03/06

4

Moved VK3BNC/UR that the Club purchase a Antenna Annalyser Autek RF15. Which will give a greater range.
Carried.

Gordon wished Eric well on his departure from the Club

Meeting closed 2115 Hrs

The VK3UR Internet Remote Base – BARG Newsletter

Overview:

The VK3UR Internet Remote Base (IRB) allows radio enthusiasts, through the internet, to access and control an amateur radio station in Ballarat, as though they were sitting in front of the radio.

The system is based on software written by Stan Schretter, W4MQ, and an article titled "A Ham Radio Public Utility HF Station", by Stan, W4MQ, Brad K6WR and Keith W7DXX, that was published in QST, November 2002. For their work in the development of internet remote bases, Stan and Keith are joint recipients of the ARRL Technical Innovation Award.

How it works:

As per Figure 1, access to the IRB is through a client side visual basic program, called Web Transceiver, which connects through the internet to a server side program, called Remote Server. Remote Server is interfaced to the radio transceiver for control, audio paths and ancillary equipment control, e.g. rotator control, antenna selection, etc.

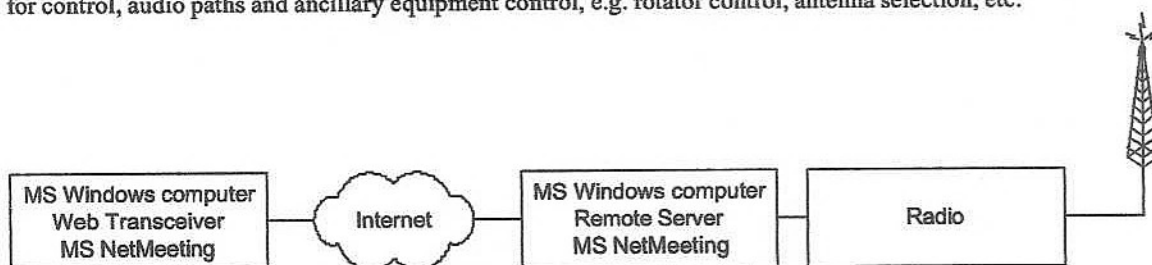


Figure 1: End to end high level system diagram

In order to use the IRB a user requires a:

- computer, running a MS Windows 95, 98, 2000 or XP operating system;
- sound card, complete with microphone and speakers;
- internet connection (recommended 14.4kbps or faster); and a
- copy of the Web Transceiver program, accessible through www.w4mq.com

The VK3UR IRB configuration:

The RF configuration of the VK3UR IRB, shown in Figure 2, comprises a Kenwood TS-2000X, trapped dipoles for 80m – 10m, a ½ wavelength vertical for 6m, a tri-band vertical for 2m / 70cm / 23cm, and horizontally polarised yagis for 2m / 70cm / 23cm. Coaxial switches are used for switching the VHF / UHF antennas and a software controlled rotator interface, from EA4TX, enables the remote user to rotate the antennas. The coaxial switches will be replaced by user controlled coaxial relays as funding becomes available. The system currently supports SSB, CW, AM and FM modes of operation. The software supports PSK31 and this will be enabled on the VK3UR system later in the year.

03/06

5

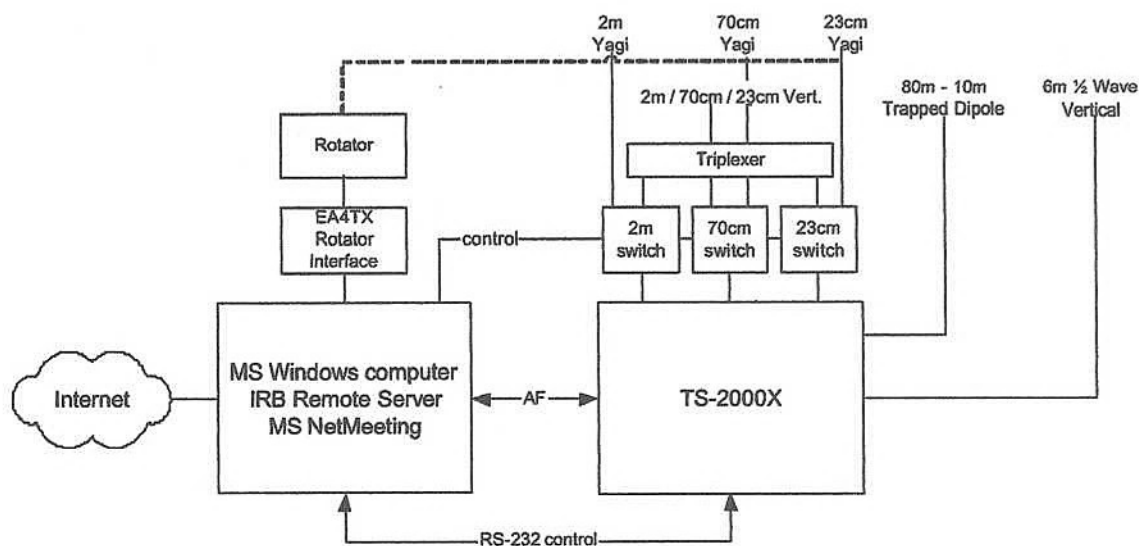


Figure 2: VK3UR IRB configuration

The TS-2000 is an ideal radio for this type of application as it is completely controllable through its inbuilt RS-232 serial port. Through the client interface, command changes to the radio are possible at rates of up to 10 changes per second.

Receive and transmit audio paths are achieved through the use of Microsoft NetMeeting. This audio path introduces a minor delay to received and transmitted audio, depending upon latency across the internet, but is generally within 1 –2 seconds. Stan, W4MQ, is currently developing a replacement for NetMeeting, called IRBSound, that will reduce the audio delay to a few hundred milliseconds.

Internet Remote Bases offer radio amateurs the following potential benefits:

- Access to an amateur radio station (HF – UHF) for amateurs in apartments, retirement homes, or other radio unfriendly environments.
- Access to a radio system to support emergency response and recovery operations.
- The ability for users to remotely listen to their transmitted signal, e.g. audio, signal level, audible distortion, etc
- The ability for users to transmit a test signal, through the system, at user defined frequencies and power levels, e.g. receiver alignment, antenna patterns, propagation tests, etc
- The ability for users to listen to a receiver in a remote location (i.e. Ballarat)

By default anyone can use the VK3UR IRB receiver, using a “Guest” account, however transmitting capabilities are limited to holders of Australian amateur licences who request access. The VK3UR IRB is a continuing “work in progress” with the long-term goal of moving it to an antenna and RF friendly location. Further information regarding internet remote bases and configuration information can be found at www.daves-portal.com

David Tilson, VK3UR

Thanks to Ian VK3AXH for his short lecture on the new ACA regulations on EMR and David VK3UR for the distribution information relating to the same.

(Editor)

NEXT MEETING Friday 27 June 03 at 7.30 pm.

REPEATERS	VK3RBS(Voice)	146.900	Mt. Ben Nevis
	VK3RBA	(Voice) 146.750	Mt. Buninyong
	VK3RPC(Packet)	144.750	Mt. Warrenheip
	VK3RBU	(Voice) 432.535	Mt. Hollowback
	VK3RMB	(Beacon) 432.535	Mt. Buninyong
CLUB NET	Thursday nights at 8 pm. (8.30 during daylight saving). Freq: 3.610 MHz +/- QRM		

0 3/06

6

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE To Secretary BARG Inc. Box 1261 Mail Centre Ballarat 3354.
